

is damaged by stress caused by fatigue, the connection line 20 may be substantially prevented from being shorted. That is, since the connection line 20 includes two paths about the opening 50e due to the guard pattern 52e that surrounds the opening 50e, even when one path is damaged, the connection line 20 may be substantially prevented from being shorted due to the other path, thereby improving the reliability of the electronic apparatus 1 including the PCB 10o.

[0177] FIG. 17 is a plan view illustrating essential parts of a PCB 10p according to an example embodiment.

[0178] Referring to FIG. 17, the PCB 10p includes the base substrate 12 and the connection line 20 formed on the base substrate 12. The base substrate 12 included in the PCB 10p may include the bending region BR having both edges 12E and the mounting regions DR extending from both ends of the bending region BR.

[0179] The base substrate 12 may include an opening 50f formed in the bending region BR. The opening 50f may be formed in the connection line 20. The opening 50f may be formed in each or at least one of a plurality of the connection lines 20. A plurality of the openings 50f may be arranged to form a line along each or at least one of the connection lines 20 in the bending region BR. One of the plurality of openings 50f arranged to form the line along the connection line 20 may be located on the virtual bending central line BC that connects both edges 12E of the bending region BR.

[0180] The PCB 10p is similar to or the same as the PCB 10o of FIG. 16 except that the opening 50f formed in the connection line 20 is similar to or the same as the opening 50c formed in the outer connection line 20o of FIG. 14, and thus a detailed explanation thereof will not be given. That is, a width of the opening 50f located on the virtual bending central line BC from among the plurality of openings 50f formed in the connection line 20 may be the largest.

[0181] In the PCB 10p according to the example embodiment, cracks may be substantially prevented from propagating due to the opening 50f. Even when a portion of the connection line 20 that is disposed in the bending region BR is damaged by stress caused by fatigue, the connection line 20 may be substantially prevented from being shorted. That is, since the connection line 20 includes two paths about the opening 50f due to a guard pattern 52f that surrounds the opening 50f, even when one path is damaged, the connection line 20 may be substantially prevented from being shorted due to the other path, thereby improving the reliability of the electronic apparatus 1 including the PCB 10p.

[0182] Although the openings 30a, 30b, 30c, 30d, 30e, 30f, 30g, 40a, 40b, 40c, 40d, 40e, 40f, and 40g are each formed in a portion of the base substrate 12 on which the connection line 20 is not formed in FIGS. 2 through 11 whereas the openings 50a, 50b, 50c, 50d, 50e, and 50f are formed in the connection line 20 in FIGS. 12 through 17, any combination may be made. That is, a PCB including at least one of the openings 30a, 30b, 30c, 30d, 30e, 30f, 30g, 40a, 40b, 40c, 40d, 40e, 40f, and 40g of FIGS. 2 through 11 and at least one of the openings 50a, 50b, 50c, 50d, 50e, and 50f of FIGS. 12 through 17 may be provided without departing from the scope of the inventive concepts.

[0183] FIGS. 18A through 18F are cross-sectional views each illustrating essential parts of a PCB included in the electronic apparatus 1 of FIG. 1. In particular, FIGS. 18A through 18F are cross-sectional views illustrating portions of a PCB corresponding to the openings 30a, 30b, 30c, 30d, 30e, 30f, 30g, 40a, 40b, 40c, 40d, 40e, 40f, 40g, 50a, 50b,

50c, 50d, 50e, and 50f of FIGS. 2 through 17. In FIGS. 18A through 18F, the same elements as those described above are denoted by the same reference numerals, and a repeated explanation thereof will not be given.

[0184] FIG. 18A is a partial enlarged cross-sectional view of a PCB 10-1 according to an example embodiment.

[0185] Referring to FIG. 18A, the PCB 10-1 includes the base substrate 12 including an opening 60a. A guard pattern 62a may be formed along a boundary of the opening 60a on each or at least one of a top surface 12a and a bottom surface 12b of the base substrate 12. The guard pattern 62a may have a substantially constant width along the boundary of the opening 60a. A width of the guard pattern 62a formed on the top surface 12a of the base substrate 12 and a width of the guard pattern 62a formed on the bottom surface 12b of the base substrate 12 may be substantially equal to each other.

[0186] The PCB 10-1 may further include a cover layer 14 that is an insulating layer and is formed on each or at least one of the top surface 12a and the bottom surface 12b of the base substrate 12. The cover layer 14 may cover the guard pattern 62a formed on the top surface 12a and the guard pattern 62a formed on the bottom surface 12b of the base substrate 12.

[0187] The cover layer 14 may be formed of or include, for example, a PI film, a PET film, a flexible solder mask, a PIC, or a photo-imageable solder resist. The cover layer 14 may be formed, for example, by directly coating the base substrate 12 with thermosetting ink by using silk-screen printing or inkjet printing and then performing thermal curing. The cover layer 14 may be formed, for example, by entirely coating the base substrate 12 with a photo-imageable solder resist by using screen printing or spray coating, removing a unnecessary portion through exposure and development, and then performing thermal curing. The cover layer 14 may be formed, for example, by laminating a PI film or a PET film onto the base substrate 12.

[0188] FIG. 18B is a partial enlarged cross-sectional view of a PCB 10-2 according to an example embodiment.

[0189] Referring to FIG. 18B, the PCB 10-2 includes the base substrate 12 including an opening 60b. A guard pattern 62b may be formed along a boundary of the opening 60b on each or at least one of the top surface 12a and the bottom surface 12b of the base substrate 12. The guard pattern 62b may have a substantially constant width along the boundary of the opening 60b. A width of the guard pattern 62b formed on the top surface of the base substrate 12 and a width of the guard pattern 62b formed on the bottom surface 12b may be substantially equal to each other.

[0190] A side wall pattern 64b that conformably covers an inner side wall of the opening 60b may be formed in the opening 60b. The side wall pattern 64b may be formed of or include, for example, copper or a copper alloy. The side wall pattern 64b may be formed, for example, by using electroplating or electroless plating. The side wall pattern 64b may substantially prevent cracks from occurring and propagating in the base substrate 12.

[0191] Although not shown, a side wall pattern that conformably covers a side wall of each or at least one of openings 60c, 60d, 60e, and 60f of FIGS. 18C through 18F may be further formed in each or at least one of the openings 60c, 60d, 60e, and 60f.

[0192] FIG. 18C is a partial enlarged cross-sectional view of a PCB 10-3 according to an example embodiment.